

# ANTI-SLAVERY BUGLE.

"NO UNION WITH SLAYHOLDERS."

VOL. I.

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BENJAMIN S. JONES, J. ELIZABETH HITCHCOCK, Editors.

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From the N. O. Tropic, Extra, of Aug. 14th.  
IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

Arrival of the Water Witch.—No Declaration of War—10,000 Mexican Troops on their March to Texas.

We hasten to lay before the readers of the Tropic the latest news from Mexico. The Water Witch, Capt. Tremis, left Vera Cruz on the 5th inst. and arrived here between 5 and 6 o'clock this morning. It seems that, after all the gaudy and despatches of the Mexican Minister, a Declaration of War is now very doubtful.

Our prompt and intelligent correspondent tells the whole story.

VERA CRUZ, 4th Aug. 1845.

Dear Sirs:—I had this pleasure, per Relampago, which left here on the 23d ult. No arrivals have since taken place from your port.

The election of a new President commenced on the 1st inst. for which there are four candidates—say, Gen. Herrera, President, ad interim, Gen. Almonte, ex-Mexican Minister at Washington, Gomez Farias, and one whose name has escaped my memory. The Presidency, however, seems to lay between the two former, one of whom it is supposed will be the successful candidate.

Almonte has offered his services to Government in the approaching campaign against Texas, but I rather think it is more a "ruse de guerre" to help him to the Presidency, than any great desire he has got to have a brush with the Texans—or as I ought rather to say now, the United States.

H. B. M. brig-of-war Persim, arrived here on the 27th ult. in seven days from Galveston, bringing the news of the Annexation of Texas being confirmed by the President Jones—and also that a body of U. States' troops, say about 4,000 men, were expected at Galveston in the course of a few days.

It appears our Government is in no hurry to declare war against the United States, or at any rate, it seems to be the general opinion that she will merely attempt to reconquer Texas without making any declaration of war. Of course the news by the Persim caused a great excitement throughout the country. The Ministry has presented an act to the two Chambers for their deliberation.

1st. To declare war against the United States.

2d. Authorizing them to raise a foreign or national loan to the amount of fifteen millions of dollars, which they consider to be requisite to carry on a war and reconquer Texas.

The proposals are now under discussion in the Chambers, and if they get the "Targent" there is no doubt they will make the attempt to again get possession, though it is doubtful whether they declare war against the United States or not.

Of course you have heard ere this, of the revolution at Tabasco, in favor of Federalism, which has induced government to declare said port closed to foreign as well as native shipping, but is rather puzzled to find out why they will keep out the former, as they have not got a single steamer that they can get ready in less than eight or twenty days, all the engineers being still, as I may say, loading on shore and waiting for their pay, of which, for some months past, they have received but a mere trifle.

The tariff question is still under discussion, or rather has been referred to a Committee, but if they procrastinate as they generally do, God knows when we shall get sight of the long expected document—and in the meantime the country will lose a great deal, as merchants do not like to ship with so much uncertainty.

I have nothing farther of interest to inform you of at present, and beg to subscribe myself, gentlemen, very respectfully, yours,

Aug. 5.—The Water Witch not sailing yesterday, I open to say that we have no news from the American Squadron, but it is thought here that it will soon appear. It is said that the troops now on the road to Texas, amount to 10,000 men. Yours, etc.

STILL LATER FROM TEXAS.

The cutter Woodbury, Capt. Foster, which left Aransas on the 6th, and Galveston on the 10th has just arrived.

Major Donelson came passenger on the Woodbury.

The ships Victoria and Savin were to leave Aransas on the 8th.

The United States steamer Monmouth had arrived at Aransas in a leaking condition, so bad that the pumps were going continually to keep her afloat.

We have received the Galveston News of the 8th. The sloop-of-war St. Mary arrived at Galveston on the 7th from Corpus Christi. There are 1000 troops at St. Joseph's Island, where they are comfortably situated. Their ulterior destination seems not to have been fully determined upon. The Falmouth was daily expected in the Gulf. Speaking of the Mexican elections, which took place on the 1st inst. the News says:

The result of the contest for the Presidency of Mexico, between Herrera and Gomez Farias, which was to take place on the 1st instant, will be looked for with considerable interest. Herrera is said to be in favor of centralism, and Farias has the full confidence of the liberal party. He advocates the restoration of the Constitution of 1824. It is said his prospects of success are far the most favorable. Possibly his election may give to Mexico a period of comparative repose from the oppression and anarchy of a succession of civil revolutions.—N. O. Tropic Extra, Aug. 14.

C. M. CLAY.

We give such further particulars of the Lexington mob as we have received since the issue of our last number. On Saturday, the Editor of the American issued the following address:

To the Citizens of Fayette County and City of Lexington.

As my opponents, notwithstanding my sickness, will not wait to hear my plan of emancipation, and seem determined to precipitate measures to extremity, without giving me a hearing, and as they insist upon branding me as an "Abolitionist," a name full of unknown and strange terrors and crimes, to the mass of our people, I will make a brief statement of my plan of emancipation. Although I regard slavery as opposed to natural right, I consider law and its inviolable observance, in all cases whatever, as the only safeguard of my own liberty and the liberty of others. I therefore have not, and will not, give my sanction to any mode of freeing the slaves, which does not conform strictly to the laws and constitution of my state. And as I am satisfied that there is no power, under the present constitution, by which slavery can be reached, I go for a Convention. In a Convention, which is politically omnipotent, I would say that every female slave born after a certain day and year should be free at the age of twenty-one. This, in course of time, would gradually, and at last, make our state truly free. I would further say that, after the expiration of thirty years, more or less, the State should provide a fund, either from her own resources, or from her portion in the public lands, for the purchase of the existing generation of slaves, in order that the white laboring portion of our community might be as soon as possible freed from the ruinous competition of slave labor. The funds should be applied after this manner: Commissioners shall be appointed in each county, who shall on oath value all slaves that shall be voluntarily presented to them for that purpose. To the owners of these slaves shall be issued, by the proper authorities, scrip bearing interest at the rate of six per cent, to the amount of the value of their slaves, and to the redemption of said scrip, principal and interest.—By this plan the present habits of our people would not be suddenly broken in upon, whilst at the same time, we believe that it would bring slavery to almost utter extinction in our State within the next thirty years.

With regard to the free blacks, I would not go for forcible expulsion, but I would encourage by all the pecuniary resources that the State had to spare, a voluntary emigration to such countries and climates as nature seems particularly to have designed them.

With regard to the political equality of the blacks with the whites, I should oppose in Convention their admission to the right of suffrage. As minors, women, foreigners, denizens, and divers other classes of individuals are, in all well regulated governments, forbidden the elective franchise, so I see no good reason why the blacks, until they become able to exercise the right to vote with proper discretion, should be admitted to the right of suffrage. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." The time might come with succeeding generations when there would be no objection on the part of the whites, and none on account of disqualification of the blacks to their being admitted to the same political platform; but let after generations act for themselves. The idea of amalgamation and paid equality is proven to be untrue and absurd. It may be said by some, what right would a Convention have to liberate the unborn? They who ask equity, the lawyers say, themselves must do the equity, and whilst the slaveholders have rights, they must remember the blacks also have rights; and surely in the compromise we have proposed between the slave and the slaveholder, the slaveholder has the lion's share.

We have thus, in a very rambling and feeble, unsatisfactory manner, given something of an outline of the plan which we had intended to present. It may be that my paper has not been conducted in the most happy manner, but is there not cause for mutual respect between myself and the public in which I am placed? And those who now most denounce me, should remember that my paper was denounced even in advance,

in the full disavowal of all the incendiary purposes which my enemies now affect to impute to me. I am willing to take warning from friends or enemies for the future conduct of my paper, and while I am ready to restrict myself in the latitude of discussion of the question, I never will voluntarily abandon a right or yield a principle.

C. M. CLAY.

August 16, 1845.

"On Sunday evening, says the Louisville Journal, Mr. Clay, who it was understood was too ill to sit up in his bed, and, in fact, so ill, that even his ultimate recovery was considered doubtful, had a large number of loaded muskets and other deadly weapons, with which he had intended to defend his office, removed from that building. On Sunday night the alarm throughout Lexington was very considerable, on account of the fact that the knowledge of what was transpiring was said to have reached a portion of the population that should have been kept in ignorance of it. Many fancied that they saw symptoms of insubordination; and patrols were kept up throughout the city during the night."

On Monday morning, C. M. Clay put out a fourth handbill, addressed to the mass meeting which was to assemble at 11 o'clock, LEXINGTON, Aug. 18th, 1845.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF LEXINGTON, AND COUNTY OF FAYETTE:—Being unable from the state of my health, to be present at your meeting, and even unable to hold a pen, having been sick thirty-five days with the typhoid fever, I dictate to an amanuensis, a few lines for your just consideration. Having been the unwilling cause, in part, of the present excitement in my county, and feeling, as I do, respect for the safety and happiness of others as well as my own, I voluntarily come forward and do all I conscientiously can do for your quiet and satisfaction. I treated the communication from the private caucus with burning contempt, arising not only from their assuming over me a power which would make me a slave, but from a sense of the deep personal indignity with which their unheard of assumptions were attempted to be carried into execution. But to you—a firmer and more organized body, and a constitutional assemblage of citizens—I feel that it is just and proper that I should answer at your bar; and as I am not in a state of health to carry on an argument or vindicate properly my own rights, I shall voluntarily, before any action is taken on your part, make such explanation as I can, in just and proper.

During my sickness, my paper has been conducted by some friends. The leading article in the last number, which I am told is the great cause of the public disquietude, I have never read, because at the time it was put to press I could not have undergone the fatigue of reading such a paper through.—Although it was read over to me at the time, yet I am fully persuaded now, that had I been in health it would not have been admitted into my columns. But I felt the less hesitancy in admitting it, because it has been my avowed policy heretofore to admit free discussion upon the subject of slavery, by slaveholders themselves, and the author of this article is largely in that kind of property. You have seen, before this time, that the course of policy which I command, myself, to the State, is widely different, in many essential points, to this author's views. The article written by myself, and published in the same paper, was written a few days after the leader was in type, and which has also been the cause of so much dissatisfaction, the justice of which, to some extent, I am willing to acknowledge. I assure you upon the honor of a man, it was never intended to mean, or to bear the construction which my enemies have given it. I was pursuing the reflections of my own mind, without thinking of the misconception that could be put upon my language.

Had I been in the vigor of health, I should have avoided the objectionable expressions, for by sharply guarding against the evils of my opponents, I would best guard at the same time against anything which could be considered of an incendiary character. I cannot say that the paper, from the beginning, has been conducted in the manner I could have wished. The cause of this it is not now necessary for me to mention. Satisfied, however, from past experience, that the free discussion of the subject of slavery is liable to many objections which I did not anticipate, and which I had allowed in an excess of liberality arising, no doubt, from the fact that I had been denied the columns of the other presses of the country myself, I propose in future very materially to restrict the latitude of discussion. I shall admit into my paper no article upon this subject, for which I am not willing to be held responsible. This, you perceive, will very much narrow the ground; for my plan of emancipation which I put forth a few days ago, is of the most gradual character. My other views put forth there also, are such as I learn are not at all offensive to the great mass of our people. By this course I expect to achieve two objects, to enable me to carry on the advocacy of those principles and measures which I deem of vital importance to our State without molestation, and without subjecting the people to the apprehensions and excitement which are now unhappily upon us. You may properly ask, perhaps, why was not this thing done before? I reply that I did not foresee any such consequences as have resulted from a different course. The denunciations of the public press on both sides, I conceived, and am still of the same opinion, arose from the desire to make both par-

ties political capital. And you will see also, when the excitement is worn off, that there have been many selfish purposes sought to be accomplished at the expense of your peace and mine, by men who are professing to be actuated by nothing but patriotic motives.

Having said thus much upon the conduct of my paper, I must say also, that my constitutional rights I shall never abandon. I feel as deeply interested in this community, as any other man in it. No man is, or has a connection, more deeply interested, in the prosperity of this State, than myself. You ought not, you cannot, if you are as just to me as you are to yourselves, ask me to do that which you would not do. I know not, in reality, what may be the state of public feeling. I am told it is very much inflamed; I, therefore, directed my publisher, after the publication of to-morrow's paper, to exclude all matter upon the subject of Slavery, until, if my health is restored, I shall be able myself to take the helm.

My office and dwelling are undefended, except by the laws of my country—to the sacred inviolability of which I confide myself and property; and of these laws you are the sole guardians. You have the power to do as you please. You will so act, however, I trust, that this day shall not be one accursed to our County and State.

C. M. CLAY.

Upon the appearance of this handbill, says the Louisville Journal, very many thought that, in consequence of Mr. Clay's pledges and his illness, the people would not molest either him or his premises, but there were some who seemed actively engaged in inciting the rest to violence. During the whole of Monday morning, the vast number of people then in Lexington, were gathered in small or large groups in all the streets of the city. About a quarter before 11 o'clock, the rush for the court house commenced, and in five minutes the building was full. An adjournment took place, and the yard was full. Several thousand persons were present. Walter Bullock, Esq. was appointed President and Benj. Gratz, Secretary. The President exhorted the meeting to be orderly, remarking that the doings of the people of Lexington and Fayette on that occasion would be published and discussed throughout the whole Union. An address to the crowd, in the name of a committee previously appointed for the purpose, was then read by Hon. T. F. Marshall, who was the writer of it.

We regret that its great length prevents its insertion in our columns. It is a labored attempt to fasten upon Mr. Clay the stigma of attempting to excite an insurrection among the slaves and to overthrow slavery by violent means. To show this, passages from his letter and editorials are taken out of their connection and commented upon in a spirit eminently calculated to excite to the highest pitch the indignation of the assembly. They attempt to prove that he is identified in principle and feeling with the Abolitionists of the North, who, they assert, "maintain for the slave the right of insurrection and exhort him to the exercise." The committee concede that the law furnishes no means of suppressing his power, but they say that, "as a sudden invasion or insurrection itself, the people have at once, independent of the magistrates, the right of defence, so when there is a well grounded apprehension of great, and, it may be, irreparable injury, the use of force in the community is lawful and safe." The conclusion of the address is in these words:

"Mr. Clay has complained in his recent handbills of his indisposition, and charged the people as deficient in courage and magnanimity in moving upon him when he is incapable of defence. If all that is said of him, his purpose, and his means, be true, his indisposition is fortunate. He may rest assured that we will not be deterred by one nor 10,000 such men as he. He cannot bully his countrymen. A Kentuckian himself, he should have known Kentuckians better. His weakness is his security. We are armed and resolved—if resistance be attempted, the consequence be on his own head. For our vindication under the circumstances we appeal to Kentucky and to the world."

The address was unanimously adopted, together with the following resolutions:

1st. That no abolition press ought to be tolerated in Kentucky and none shall be in this city or its vicinity.

2d. That if the office of the "True American" be surrendered peacefully, no injury shall be done to the building or other property. The press and printing apparatus shall be carefully packed up and sent out of the State, subject them to C. M. Clay's order.

3d. That if resistance be offered, we will force the office at all hazards, and destroy the nuisance.

4th. That if an attempt be made to revive the paper here, we will again assemble.

5th. That we hope C. M. Clay will be advised. For our regard to our wives, our children, our homes, our property, our country, our honor, wear what name he may, be connected with whom he may, whatever arm or party here or elsewhere may sustain him, he shall not publish an Abolition paper here, and this we affirm at the risk, be it of his blood or our own, or both; or of all he may bring, of bond or free, to aid his murderous hand.

6th. That the Chairman be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint a Committee of sixty of our body, who shall be authorized to repair to the office of the "True American," take possession of press and printing

apparatus, pack up the same, and place it at the railroad office for transportation to Cincinnati, and report forthwith to this body."

The action of that Committee is thus reported by a correspondent of the New York Herald:

"The committee went to the office—the key was given to them—the city marshal reported progress, that in a few hours the press, &c. would be on the cars."

The committee reported at two o'clock that the press was taken down, and pledged themselves that in a few hours it should be on the cars. Ex-Governor Metcalf, alias "Old Stonehammer," addressed the vast assemblage of human beings for two hours, on the subject of abolition, and the peaceable manner in which they had conducted themselves, on this 18th day of August, which will be long remembered by Kentuckians. I leave the meeting to write these few lines.

I neglected to inform you at first that C. M. Clay has been sick with the typhoid fever for thirty-five days, and could not be personally present."

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The Lexington Outrage—Opinions in Kentucky.

We have waited with no common interest to see how the late outrage at Lexington would be viewed by the Press in other parts of Kentucky, where the people are less excited and in a condition to look upon the matter with some degree of calmness and impartiality. Our desire has been met and gratified in part by the following article from the Louisville Journal, which no doubt expresses the sentiments of a large and highly influential body of citizens. We publish it with great pleasure, not because it accords in every respect with our own opinions, but as an evidence that the conduct of the citizens of Lexington will meet the decided condemnation of many of their most intelligent fellow citizens, and that the cause of Peaceful, Lawful Emancipation, so far from being overthrown, will be greatly accelerated by the very means intended to check its progress.

It will be perceived that the Editor of the Journal is inclined to give credence to the stories told him at Lexington of the insolence and insubordination of the Slaves consequent upon the publication of the True American. Our own convictions, however, that these reports were greatly exaggerated, that, in fact, they had very little foundation except in the excited imagination of men hostile to the rights of the Negro and bent upon his enslavement at all hazards. That Mr. Clay's paper had excited hopes of ultimate emancipation in the minds of many Slaves is probably true, and it is easy to see how any manifestations of interest on their part in his movements would be regarded by their jealous masters as indications of an insolent and restless spirit; but that there was really any danger of insurrection on this account we do not for a moment believe. If, however, there was danger of such a catastrophe before the outrage, there is infinitely more now that the Blacks have witnessed this illegal assault upon one whom they deemed their best friend. But we detain our readers too long from the article of which we are speaking. Here it is:

From the Louisville Journal, Aug. 31.

THE LEXINGTON DISTURBANCE.—The suppression of the "True American" by the people of Lexington and the surrounding country, and the manner in which it was effected, are acts of which we are compelled to disapprove. We never will sanction the exertion of mob-power in any instance. Ours is a country of laws. Freedom of speech and action are to be restrained only by law. Whenever the safe exercise of these privileges is made to depend upon the sufferance of the populace, their value becomes insignificant, the majesty of the law degraded, and sooner or later licentiousness will supplant sound morals. If, on account of the absence of legal restriction, an individual chooses to pursue a course of action annoying to the community in which he dwells, we think it is better, temporarily, to suffer the evil, than to set the bad example of taking its summary punishment into hands entitled to no legal power of restraint. The Lexington case, we know, is marked by great peculiarity; yet, we think, some other course would have been preferable to that which was determined upon and pursued, and that the last handbill of Mr. Clay and the assurances of his friends, should have induced the people to withhold their hands from an unauthorized control of his private property. The management of Mr. Clay's paper has been very indiscreet. He has inflicted injury where he designed to do good. His exertions have retarded a movement which he wished to accelerate. His hasty temper has involved him in personal quarrels, conducted through his paper, and embarrassing the question with which he had connected his publication.—He did not assume the tone in which to address this people with effect or to awaken them to a sense of their true interests upon the subject he proposed to discuss. He seemed to have forgotten that slavery did not appear to every one as a sin to be atoned for, and to be abandoned at any and every sacrifice. He became impatient at what he considered the perverseness of the people, and suffered his temper to master all discretion in his use of language. We think the editorial in the last American, which spread such alarm and created such indignation in the bosoms of the citizens, was, to say the least of it, a foolish flourish of rhetorical fire among combustibles easy to be ignited by the application of just such means as Mr.